

# Wisconsin Emergency Management

# Digest

Governor Jim Doyle

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The Adjutant General

Johnnie L. Smith  
Administrator

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## Tornadoes hit Wisconsin

**By Lori Getter,  
Wisconsin Emergency  
Management**

With only six months into 2005, Wisconsin has already passed the annual state average for the number of tornadoes that hit the state.

As of June 24, the National Weather Service has confirmed 29 tornado touchdowns in Wisconsin so far this year. The annual average is 21. Fortunately, all the tornadoes have been F0 or F1 in strength and have caused relatively minor damage.



*Dan Frerichs adjusts the tarp protecting his sister Heidi Frerichs' twinhome. Dan, Monica and Lars Frerichs live on the other side of the structure and hid out in their bathroom during the Hammond tornado on June 11. Photo By Michele DeLong Lyksett, News staff reporter, New Richmond News*

On June 11, an F1 tornado hit the community of Hammond in St. Croix County. Approximately 25 homes and condos were damaged. There were no reports of injuries. St. Croix County Emergency Management Director Jack Colvard put the estimated damage total at \$3.6 million, with most of it covered by insurance.

## Construction completed on new state EOC

After six months of tearing down walls, drilling, and rewiring, the new State of Wisconsin Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is finished and ready to activate during emergencies.

A combination of state and federal funds was used to remodel the state EOC which originally was built in the early 1990's. Additional space and equipment were needed as the state continues to expand the use of the state EOC.

The newly remodeled facility includes state of the art electronic equipment including microphones, new computers, and new screen projectors. Over the years, the state EOC has been used during various emergencies including the 9-11 terrorist attack.



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# WEM finishing state GIS Needs Assessment

**By Teri Engelhart, Wisconsin Emergency Management**

Wisconsin Emergency Management is nearing completion of a Geographical Information System (GIS) Needs Assessment. A GIS Project Team was formed and worked with the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) to interview nearly 100 individuals representing identified stakeholders. The information collected during these interviews was analyzed and business needs were determined. From the business needs, projects, along with GIS recommendations were compiled and these projects will be the basis of future implementation plans.

The stakeholders interviewed were from federal, state, county and local government agencies, as well as non-profit and private organizations that WEM would coordinate with during a disaster. Interviewing this wide variety of entities allowed for a perspective that will ensure WEM's GIS program can be effectively utilized and integrated by these entities during both disaster and non-disaster times.

Prior to the needs assessment, some datasets were collected from other state agencies and used to create static maps used in the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program. One of the first steps that the needs assessment identified is to establish formal data-sharing agreements to standardize and regulate the process of sharing data between organizations. Mapping standards also need to be established to ensure consistency among those exchanging data and sharing maps. WEM also had two GIS applications in place, prior to the needs assessment.

A few of the key projects identified in the needs assessment were the capabilities to perform plume and flood modeling. To do this, software extensions are required, such as Consequence Assessment Tool Set (CATS) and HAZUS. Some staff will need training to use these extensions and then the programs will be run in a test environment. Once that has been completed, modeling would be practiced during drills and exercises.

GIS is also not only used for mapping. For example, all EPCRA facilities can be geo-located on a map and by clicking on a specific facility you will be linked to a database that contains information on that facility, such as the owner's name and contact information, a listing of the chemicals on-site and the site emergency plan. The same types of databases can be created and linked to map points for nursing homes, food processors, fire departments and critical facilities. Large amounts of information can be stored and accessed quickly through a well planned GIS program.

In addition to the GIS initiative, WEM has recently issued a Request For Proposal (RFP) for an EOC software package. The EOC software should integrate the GIS program described above. Other specifications indicate that the software should be able to be used by counties and local responders via the web to manage incidents at their level, and concurrently be used by the state to monitor the same or multiple incidents. The software should also have the capability to track resources, communications and messaging, and generate situation and public information reports. The tentative date for completion of the project is August 2005.



*WEM staff attended a meeting this summer to learn about the state GIS Needs Assessment.*

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# Terrorism exercise tests Kenosha County

**By Ben Schliesman, Kenosha County Emergency Management**

A sporting event turned into a deadly scene at the field house at the University of Wisconsin – Parkside. The chemical release and bomb threats were all part of a full-scale terrorism exercise held in Kenosha County on May 25, 2005.

Over 300 people and 20 first responder agencies participated. In addition, 75 volunteers from various nursing programs and the Great Lakes Naval Base in Illinois acted as victims. The participation made it a valuable learning tool for first responders.

Cem Tuncan, Exercise Program Manager for U.S. Department of Homeland Security said this exercise brought many agencies from Kenosha County as well as state first responders together to test their current plans and procedures. "As a result of this exercise, Kenosha County and the surrounding area first responders were able to test and play their standard operating procedures and plans in a simulated environment without jeopardizing the real world response capabilities. The cooperation of the participants was extraordinary. They all gave their best to make the exercise a success."



*Photo by Racine Fire Bells*



*Photo by Door County Emergency Management*

## Explosion tests responders

More than 240 first responders and emergency personnel participated in a full-scale terrorism exercise in Sister Bay, Wisconsin that involved fiery explosions.

In the scenario, terrorists drove a tanker truck to the Sister Bay water facility and set off an explosion. Cars were set on fire to make the exercise feel more realistic.

According to Door County Emergency Management Director Ann DeMeuse, although the exercise in Door County on May 14 was terrorism-based, the valuable tools and skills needed to handle this type of large event are applicable whether it is a man-made or natural disaster.

Participants were evaluated in several areas. The exercise was an opportunity to assess Door County's ability to coordinate a large-scale response involving mass casualties and a chemical release with numerous agencies and groups involved in the response. Participants also examined the adequacy of local, community-wide emergency operations plans.

# State receives approval of mitigation plan

**By Roxanne Gray, Wisconsin Emergency Management**

In March, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved the State of Wisconsin's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Approval of the plan ensures that Wisconsin will retain its eligibility for future federal disaster assistance programs.

The plan identifies the state's most prevalent hazards and sets forth a mitigation strategy to help reduce future damage from natural disasters. Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) led the efforts to develop the plan. WEM coordinated with the Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Team which consists of representatives from various state and federal agencies.

Under the federal regulations, local governments and tribal organizations are also required to develop all hazard mitigation plans in order to be eligible for mitigation funding. Over the past three years, more than \$2 million has been provided through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs to assist local governments and tribal organizations in the development of the mitigation plans. Currently 15 plans have been approved by FEMA, three plans are approved pending local adoption, and five more have been submitted to FEMA for approval. In addition, there are another 29 plans under development.



For more information regarding the State's Hazard Mitigation Program and to view or download the State of Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Plan, visit the WEM website at <http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov>, or contact WEM's mitigation staff at 608-242-3232.

## New Mitigation Guide Online

A new mitigation guide is now available that provides information on how communities should integrate historic homes and buildings and other cultural resources when developing hazard mitigation plans.

"Integrating Historic Property and Cultural Resource Considerations into Hazard Mitigation Planning" is the sixth how-to-guide in a series of state and local mitigation planning offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The new guide shows communities, step by step, how to develop and then implement a pre-disaster planning strategy for their historic properties and cultural resources.

The document is available on the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/fima/howto6.shtm>.

## Sharing Mitigation Stories

*As part of the annual conference of the Association of State Flood Plain Managers (ASFPM) held in Madison in June, conference attendees were invited to tour the community of Darlington and view some of the flood mitigation projects the city has implemented. This included acquisition and demolition as well as flood proofing historic commercial properties and residential structures. The technical field tour was one of the tours offered at the ASFPM annual conference which was held at the Monona Convention Center on June 12-17. Photo by Roxanne Gray*

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# Can your EM office run without you?

**By David Maack, Racine County Emergency Management**

I have always wondered if the Racine County Office of Emergency Management could function if I was gone for an extended period of time. My greatest fear had been if a tornado touched down while I was on vacation and I was unable to be reached. It came close to happening once, but fortunately it has not happened yet.

Many emergency management offices are small operations with both limited budgets and staff. My department, for example, has a staff of 1.3 which includes me. In addition, I have five volunteer emergency management coordinators whose primary function is to be on call when I am not available. For the most part, they do not get involved with the hands-on, day-to-day operations of the office.

That all changed on February 8, 2005, when I was admitted to the hospital with a near fatal bout of pancreatitis. Within days, I was in the Intensive Care Unit and in an induced coma that I would not come out of until March 8. As a result I was unable to work or keep in touch with the office. Overnight that 1.3 person office was reduced to a 0.3 person office.



**David Maack  
Racine County  
Emergency Management**

This could not have happened at a worse time. We had training grants to close out and we were in the midst of purchasing equipment under the 2004 Homeland Security Grant Program. We were also planning two major exercises involving the City of Racine, our largest municipality.

The county's corporation counsel was appointed to oversee the office in my absence. He was familiar with emergency management, having been involved in the planning process and disaster exercises. In addition, my administrative assistant, who I share with the Sheriff's Department, increased her hours in the office and three of my volunteer deputy emergency management coordinators took over different aspects of the emergency management program.

We always talk about the need to have backup plans and in recent years there has been a push to develop continuity of operation plans. I had never envisioned being off work for two months, but it is reassuring to know that the office could function without me. Although we had to get extensions on some items that were due during my absence, the office ran smoothly and several major projects, including two exercises, were accomplished and 24/7 coverage was maintained during this time.

Local emergency management programs should be bigger than just one or two people. I was fortunate to have qualified, competent volunteer deputy coordinators who carried out the functions of the office during a very difficult time. Could you say the same if you were not available due to a catastrophic illness?

## **Lessons learned:**

- Make sure that staff in other departments are familiar with emergency management and perhaps are cross trained in the event they would need to step in and assist.
- Find good, dependable volunteers. Two of my deputy coordinators are retired police officers and one is a recent college graduate who has been volunteering with my office since he graduated from high school.
- Utilize your volunteers and involve them in different projects. That way they become familiar with more than just the response end. Also include them in various meetings.
- Develop good working relationships with your neighboring emergency management directors. During my illness, many volunteered to assist with various projects.

# Weigle retires after long career with WEM

After serving over 39 years with the State of Wisconsin, Emergency Management Planning Program Manager Margie Weigle is retiring.

Margie began with the State of Wisconsin in 1966 and joined Wisconsin Emergency Management in 1980. She has assisted in 21 Presidential Disaster Declarations and numerous other disasters and emergencies. Last fall, Margie spent two weeks in Florida, assisting with the hurricane recovery efforts.

Margie was also responsible for assisting in the development of many state and local emergency operations plans.

Throughout her career in emergency management, Margie always showed compassion and understanding to victims of disasters and would work tirelessly to make sure they received help. Her dedication, friendship and smiles will be missed! Happy retirement Margie!



Margie Weigle

## Regional Briefs

Best Wishes to **WEM's Disaster Resources Planner Kent MacLaughlin** who has accepted another position at the Department of Military Affairs.

**Shelley Williams** has been hired as the **Menominee County Emergency Management/911 Director**.

**Eric J. Burmeister** was named the new **Marinette County Emergency Management Director**. Eric started his new position the end of June.

**Calumet County Emergency Management Director Chris Nordeng** has resigned. Calumet County Administrator Bill Craig is serving as Acting Emergency Management Director.

**Dunn County Emergency Management Director Chris Kruse** has resigned. **Bob Hoyt** has been named interim director.

Mark your calendars! **The 39th Annual Governor's Conference on Emergency Management and Homeland Security** will be held **April 4-5, 2006** at the Grand Geneva Resort at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. If you have suggestions for possible speakers or topics—please contact Diane Kleiboer at [diane.kleiboer@dma.state.wi.us](mailto:diane.kleiboer@dma.state.wi.us).

## WEM Job Openings

The Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs is accepting applications for three positions at Wisconsin Emergency Management:

**Emergency Police Services Coordinator**  
*Located at Camp Douglas*

**Fire Services Coordinator**  
*Located at Camp Douglas*

**Emergency Government Specialist  
GIS Support for Radiological Emergency  
Preparedness**  
*Located in Madison*

Information is available on the WEM website:  
**<http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov>**

To request special application/examination materials, call, write, FAX or email your name and address to Sarah Selah; Department of Military Affairs; WING-SHR; P.O. Box 14587; Madison, WI 53708-0587; (608) 242-3153; FAX (608) 242-3168; e-mail [sarah.selah@dma.state.wi.us](mailto:sarah.selah@dma.state.wi.us). **Deadline is 4:30 p.m. Monday, July 25, 2005.**

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# State achieving homeland security goals

**By Cullen Peltier, WEMA President**

I recently had the opportunity to represent Wisconsin Emergency Management Association (WEMA) at the roll-out of the National Response Plan (NRP) in Chicago. During the conference, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security unveiled its "seven priorities for national preparedness". The priorities are as follows:

- (1) Implement the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the NRP
- (2) Expanded Regional Collaboration
- (3) Implement the Interim National Infrastructure Protection Plan
- (4) Strengthen Information Sharing and Collaboration Capabilities
- (5) Strengthen Interoperable Communications Capabilities
- (6) Strengthen specialized CBRNE Detection, Response and Decontamination Capabilities
- (7) Strengthen Medical Surge and Mass Prophylaxis Capabilities



As I sat at the roll-out with our state partners from Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) and Office of Justice Assistance (OJA), and I reviewed the list of priorities, I came to realize that our counties and the State of Wisconsin are moving in the right direction when it comes to implementing our homeland security strategies.

Municipalities all over the state have adopted NIMS and have been diligently working with WEM and OJA to conduct training on NIMS, the NRP, and Incident Command System. Regional teams have been established and are in the process of being trained. More importantly, we are seeing counties work together with their neighbors to establish/update mutual aid agreements and conduct joint exercises and training.

Through all our efforts, and all of the bumps and curves along the way, it is evident that working together is what has made us successful in implementing our homeland security initiatives. We have come a long way and we cannot let this fall apart at this critical juncture.

WEMA has worked very hard to build relationships with our state and federal partners. I encourage you to use WEMA as a conduit for passing along your questions and concerns. We are much stronger when we speak with one voice.

## Dodge Co. distributes radios

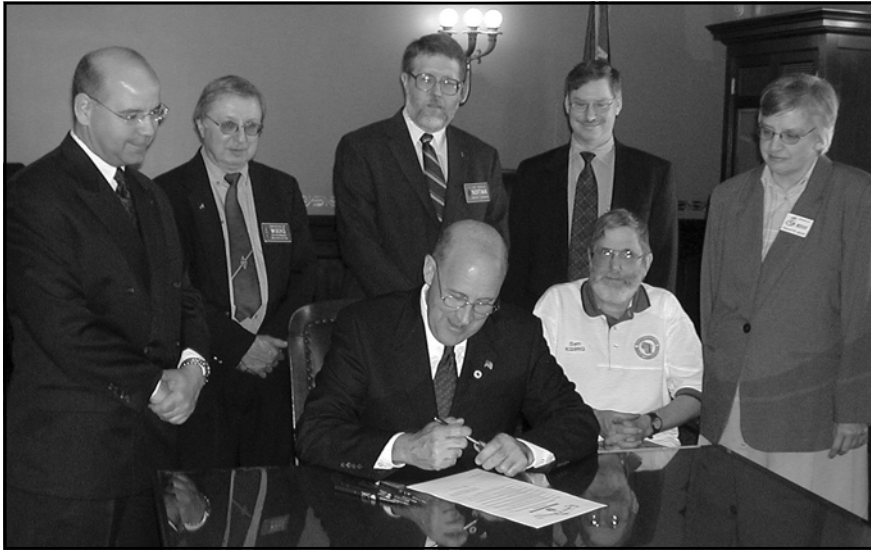
**By Jennifer Warmke, Dodge County Emergency Management**

Dodge County Office of Emergency Management recently received a \$35,000 hazard mitigation grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Wisconsin Emergency Management for the purchase and distribution of NOAA All-Hazards Weather Alert Radios to schools and other public and special needs facilities in the county.

NOAA Weather Radios provide citizens with early warning notification in the event of severe weather, a hazardous chemical spill, or terrorist incident.

Volunteers from the Dodge County Citizen Corps Committee and members from the Rock River Radio Club spent an afternoon programming 1,000 radios for distribution.





## Honoring Ham Radio Operators

*Governor Jim Doyle signed a proclamation designating June 25, 2005 as Wisconsin Amateur Radio Operator Recognition Day. From the left are Bill Niemuth, Don Michalski, Joe Senulis, Jim Lattis, Sam Rowe and Paulette Quick.*

## Teens READY for camp

Wisconsin youth are invited to participate in an emergency preparedness summer camp.

The READY (Responding to Emergencies and Disasters with Youth) Camp will be held from July 18-22, 2005 at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and at Volk Field.

The Wisconsin READY Initiative is supported by the Wisconsin Citizen Corps Council. It provides emergency preparedness training, education and exercising programs/activities to students (K-12) throughout Wisconsin.

Organizers hope that this camp will be held annually. For further information on the READY Initiative and the READY Camp, go to [www.ready.cehss.org](http://www.ready.cehss.org).



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